What you need to know

- Tagalog is the most common language spoken in the Philippines.
- Tagalog names typically consist of one first name and one last name. Middle names are common but not universal. Tagalog first names can be single names, or names with two or more parts such as Maria Therese.
- Tagalog names sometimes use suffixes such as Jr., Sr., II, or III.
- Children typically take their father’s last name and may have their mother’s maiden name as a middle name. Women often adopt their husband’s last name after marriage, and may hyphenate their maiden name to their husband’s last name.

Registering students

1. Include all names in databases and documents. Tagalog names typically consist of one first name and one last name, and may also include a middle name.
2. Include generational suffixes such as Jr. or II with names in school databases and documents. In most databases these should be placed in the first name field.

Example

A father introduces himself as Gilbert Santos. The mother introduces herself as Marieta Hernandez Montilla-Santos, and their daughter is Michelle Montilla Santos. (First names are in red, middle names are in black italics, and last names are in blue throughout this guide.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Father: Gilbert Fabona Santos</th>
<th>Mother: Marieta Hernandez Montilla-Santos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First name</td>
<td>Gilbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle name</td>
<td>Fabona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last name</td>
<td>Santos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daughter: Michelle Montilla Santos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last name</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remember

Naming practices vary among Tagalog speakers, so this guide provides only a general overview.
More examples

Student: Alfonso Corregidor Pioquinto, Jr.

First name  Alfonso, Jr.
Middle name  Corregidor
Last name  Pioquinto

Student: Shamcey Supsup

First name  Shamcey
Middle name
Last name  Supsup

Student: Maria Cecilia Sanchez Legaspi

First name  Maria
Middle name  Cecilia
Last name  Sanchez Legaspi

Addressing parents, students, and families

- Address parents using their first last name, so Gilbert Fabona Santos should be addressed as Mr. Santos, and Marieta Hernandez Montilla-Santos as Mrs. Montilla-Santos. It is also acceptable to refer to parents with the husband’s last name, as in Mr. and Mrs. Santos.
- When sending written materials to families, address them as follows:
  - To the parents of Michelle Santos
  - To the Santos family

Use a qualified translator if you are not able to communicate clearly with the parents and student.

School staff members who register students should come to an agreement with parents on a name that respects both their cultural patterns and the constraints of the database. That name should be written out and provided to the families and students in a notice written in the family’s home language, indicating that this is the name that will be used officially at school. Doing so will help students and families remember to use the modified name in school settings.

More information about this and other reference sheets can be found on the Education Northwest website: http://educationnorthwest.org/resource/3130.